

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the bipartisan fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill becoming law, I am proud to have secured over \$10 million to fund 10 projects in communities across northern Illinois.

These essential projects will reduce wait times for mental healthcare, upgrade infrastructure to ensure clean water, make college more affordable and accessible, support foster youth and families, and strengthen local emergency response and community safety.

Last summer, I visited many of the organizations that sponsor these projects to learn more about how these funds will impact Illinoisans. Independence Health & Therapy will receive \$60,000 to expand tele-psychiatry hours and reduce wait times for mental health services in McHenry County.

The DeKalb County Regional Office of Education will receive \$150,000 to expand the work of the DeKalb County Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative and provide quality early learning opportunities to residents of Sandwich, Sycamore, and Hinckley.

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission will receive nearly \$1.4 million to prevent impending dam failure of the Sylvan Lake Dam and protect nearly 500 homes from flooding and damage.

The Kendall County CASA Program will receive \$200,000 to establish a CASA clubhouse which will serve the growing foster youth population by providing a free, safe location for families to meet during court-ordered visitation.

McHenry County College will receive \$825,000 to expand dual credit and dual degree programs, offering low-cost college credits to high schoolers across McHenry County.

The Wauconda Fire Protection District will receive \$36,000 to replace a 28-year-old natural gas emergency backup generator to power the fire station's emergency operations center, which provides essential services to the 40,000 residents in Lake and McHenry Counties.

And over \$7.5 million is being directed to critical water infrastructure projects to ensure safe, clean, and sustainable drinking water for residents of Joliet, Pingree Grove, and Richmond.

From day one, I have worked hard to bring the voices of the 14th District to Congress. And as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I will continue to ensure that our communities' priorities are reflected within Federal funding.

These projects will create jobs and improve the well-being of our communities, and I am so proud to deliver this \$10.5 million investment to my constituents.

This month, the House passed the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act which would expand healthcare for 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and an original co-sponsor

of the bill, I am proud to champion this historic legislation.

Simply put, the Honoring our PACT Act is a full accounting for the true cost of war. When our servicemembers signed up to defend our country and our freedoms, we made a promise to care for them when they returned home. For too long, we failed to keep that promise.

By passing this bill, we are upholding our end of the pact and ensuring every veteran has access to the care they deserve.

The Senate must pass this comprehensive toxic exposure legislation swiftly. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The following proceedings were held in the Capitol Visitor Center before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER. Good morning. Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Madam Ambassador, who is with us this morning, Madam Ambassador Markarova.

Mr. President, it is my honor to present to you the Congress of the United States, which has great respect and admiration and appreciation for your courageous leadership.

Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and distinct honor of presenting to you the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

My colleagues, Slava Ukraini. Glory to Heroes.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President ZELENSKYY (Speaking in Ukrainian). Thank you very much. Madam Speaker, Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, Americans, friends, I am proud to greet you from Ukraine, from our capital city of Kyiv, a city that is under missile and airstrikes from Russian troops every day, but it doesn't give up. And we have not even thought about it for a second, just like many other cities and communities in our beautiful country which found themselves in the worst war since World War II.

I have the honor to greet you on behalf of the Ukrainian people, brave and freedom-loving people who, for 8 years, have been resisting the Russian aggression; those who give their best sons and daughters to stop this full-scale Russian invasion.

Right now, the destiny of our country is being decided, the destiny of our people, whether Ukrainians will be free, whether they will be able to preserve their democracy.

Russia has attacked not just us, not just our land, not just our cities. It went on a brutal offensive against our values, basic human values.

It threw tanks and planes against our freedom, against our right to live freely in our own country, choosing our own future; against our desire for happiness; against our national dreams, just like the same dreams you have, you, Americans, just like anyone else in the United States.

I remember your national memorial at Mount Rushmore, the faces of your prominent Presidents, those who laid the foundation of the United States of America as it is today: democracy; independence; freedom; and care for everyone, for every person, for everyone who works diligently, who lives honestly, who respects the law. We in Ukraine want the same for our people. All that is a normal part of your own life.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Americans: In your great history, you have pages that would allow you to understand Ukrainians. Understand us now, when we need you right now.

Remember Pearl Harbor, the terrible morning of December 7, 1941, when your sky was black from the planes attacking you. Just remember it.

Remember September 11, a terrible day in 2001 when evil tried to turn your cities and independent territories into battlefields, when innocent people were attacked from the air, yes. Just like nobody else expected it, you could not stop it.

Our country experiences the same every day. Right now, at this moment, every night for 3 weeks now, in various Ukrainian cities: Odessa, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsya, Mariupol, and Dnipro. Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people.

Russian troops have already fired nearly 1,000 missiles at Ukraine, countless bombs. They use drones to kill us with precision. This is a terror that Europe has not seen for 80 years, and we are asking for a reply, for an answer to this terror from the whole world.

Is this a lot to ask for, to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to save people? Is this too much to ask, a humanitarian no-fly zone, something that Russia would not be able to terrorize our free cities?

If this is too much to ask, we offer an alternative. You know what kind of defense systems we need, S-300 and other similar systems. You know how much depends on the battlefield, on the ability to use aircraft, powerful, strong aviation to protect our people, our freedom, our land, aircraft that can help Ukraine help Europe. And you know that they exist, and you have them, but they are on Earth, not in the Ukrainian sky. They do not defend our people.

"I have a dream." These words are known to each of you. Today, I can say, I have a need. I need to protect our sky. I need your decision, your help, which means exactly the same, the same you feel when you hear the words, "I have a dream."

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Ukraine is grateful to the United States for its overwhelming support for everything that your government and your people have done for us: for weapons and ammunition; for training; for finances; for leadership in the free world, which helps us to pressure the aggressor economically.

I am grateful to President Biden for his personal involvement, for his sincere commitment to the defense of Ukraine and democracy all over the world. I am grateful to you for the resolution which recognizes all those who commit crimes against Ukraine, against the Ukrainian people, as war criminals.

However, now, it is true, in the darkest time for our country, for the whole Europe, I call on you to do more. New packages of sanctions are needed constantly, every week until the Russian military machine stops.

Restrictions are needed for everyone on whom this unjust regime is based. We propose that the United States sanction all politicians in the Russian Federation who remain in their offices and do not cut ties with those who are responsible for the aggression against Ukraine, from State Duma members to the last official who has the lack of morals to break the state terror.

All American companies must leave Russia from their market. Leave their market immediately because it is flooded with our blood.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, please take the lead. If you have companies in your districts who finance the Russian military machine leaving business in Russia, you should put pressure. I am asking to make sure that the Russians do not receive a single penny that they use to destroy people in Ukraine, the destruction of our country, the destruction of Europe.

All American ports should be closed for Russian goods. Peace is more important than income, and we have to defend this principle in the whole world.

We already became part of the antiwar coalition, the big antiwar coalition that unites many countries, dozens of countries, those who reacted in principle to President Putin's decision to invade our country. But we need to move on and do more.

We need to create new tools to respond quickly and stop the war, the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24. And it would be fair if it ended in a day, in 24 hours, that evil would be punished immediately.

Today, the world does not have such tools. The wars of the past have prompted our predecessors to create institutions that should protect us from

war, but they, unfortunately, don't work. We see it; you see it. So, we need new ones, new institutions, new alliances, and we offer them.

We propose to create an association. U24, United for Peace, a union of responsible countries that have the strength and consciousness to stop conflicts immediately, to provide all the necessary assistance in 24 hours: if necessary, even weapons; if necessary, sanctions, humanitarian support, political support, finances, everything you need to keep the peace and quickly save the world to save lives.

In addition, such an association, such a union, could provide assistance to those who are experiencing natural disasters, man-made disasters, who fall victim to humanitarian crises or epidemics. Remember how difficult it was for the world to do the simplest thing just to give vaccines, vaccines against COVID, to save lives, to prevent new strains. The world spent months, years, doing things like that much faster to make sure there are no human losses, no victims.

Ladies and gentlemen, Americans, if such an alliance would exist today—that is, U24—we would be able to save thousands of lives in our country, in many countries of the world, those who need peace, those who suffer inhumane destruction.

I ask you to watch one video, a video of what the Russian troops did in our country, in our land. We have to stop it. We must prevent it, preemptively destroy every single aggressor who seeks to subjugate other nations. Please watch the video.

(Video Presentation.)

President ZELENSKYY. And in the end, to sum it up, today it is not enough to be the leader of the nation. Today it takes to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace. Peace in your country doesn't depend anymore only on you and your people. It depends on those next to you and those who are strong.

Strong doesn't mean big. Strong is brave and ready to fight for the lives of his citizens and citizens of the world; for human rights, for freedom, for the right to live decently and to die when your time comes and not when it is wanted by someone else, by your neighbor.

Today, the Ukrainian people are defending not only Ukraine. We are fighting for the values of Europe and the world, sacrificing our lives in the name of the future.

That is why, today, the American people are helping not just Ukraine but Europe and the world to keep the planet alive, to keep justice in history.

Now, I am almost 45 years old. Today, my age stopped when the hearts of more than 100 children stopped beating.

I see no sense in life if it cannot stop the deaths, and this is my main mission as the leader of my people, the great Ukrainians. And as the leader of

my nation, I am addressing President Biden: You are the leader of the Nation, of your great Nation. I wish you to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace. Thank you.

Slava Ukraini. Glory to Ukraine.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In You, O Lord our God, we take refuge. Give shelter to those who are pursued this day and deliver them. Rescue those whose cities are being torn apart, those men, women, and children who are being torn away from home and hearth, family and security.

As we consider the adversities of the people around the globe, sights of which are in such contrast to anything we could have possibly imagined or considered, call us to arms.

In addition to the policies we craft, the decisions we make, and the negotiations we attempt, we wield the most powerful weapon You have given every lawmaker and every citizen: our prayers.

So, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Rise up, O Lord, in Your anger. Lift Yourself up against the fury of the enemies. Exact Your judgment on those who conceive evil, who give birth to disillusionment. Let the evil of the wicked come to an end.

Then by Your grace, establish the righteous. Provide deep resolve and faithfulness in the hearts of the persecuted that they would remain strong in You.

Be their shield. Save the upright in heart and preserve the innocent from harm.

O Lord most high, we depend on Your righteousness. And in the strength of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.